

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 01809 220919Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----220919 127230 /12  
P 220722Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0022

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 1809

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, US, XF  
SUBJECT: ARAFAT COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH US

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI ASKED THAT I SEE HIM OVER  
THE WEEKEND AND GAVE ME THE FOLLOWING AIDE MEMOIRE:

2. QUOTE: MR YASSER ARAFAT WAS RECEIVED BY THE PRIME  
MINISTER AT HIS RESIDENCE IN LARKANA ON THE 9TH FEB. 1977.  
MR. YASSER ARAFAT, INTER ALIA, MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS  
DURING THE DISCUSSION:

A) THE US SEES THE PLO AS AN OBSTACLE. THE PLO  
WAS CERTAINLY NOT AN OBSTACLE IN THE WAY OF A SETTLEMENT.  
ISRAEL WAS ACQUIRING STRATEGIC WEAPONS INCLUDING PHANTOMS 15  
AND 16. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, THE PLO WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC  
ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR A SETTLEMENT.

B) THE PROPOSAL FOR RESOLVING THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM  
AS PART OF A FEDERATION OR CONFEDERATION WITH JORDAN WAS  
AIMED AT CURBING THE PALESTINIAN STRENGTH. THERE  
WAS AN IMPRESSION THAT EVEN A MINI PALESTINIAN STATE  
WILL EXPAND. THIS WAS WRONG BECAUSE ISRAEL WAS  
STRONGER THAN ALL THE ARAB STATES COMBINED.

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C) MR. ARAFAT DID NOT SEE ANY SHIFT IN THE AMERICAN  
POSITION TOWARDS THE PLO. THE US HAD NOT EVEN ALLOWED  
HIM TO OPEN AN OFFICE IN WASHINGTON.

D. RECOGNITION WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT CARD THE  
PALESTINIANS HAD AND THEY WERE FRT GOING TO THROW IT  
AWAY. IF RECOGNITION WAS SUCH AN IMPORTANT MATTER

AND IF PLO'S RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL WAS IMPORTANT,  
THERE WAS AN EQUAL NEED FOR THE US TO RECOGNISE THE PLO.

E) ISRAEL'S AIM WAS TO GAIN TIME TO CONSOLIDATE ITS  
HOLD OVER JERUSALEM AND CHANGE ITS DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTER.  
IN 1967 THERE WAS AN OLD JEWISH QUARTER IN JERUSALEM.  
TODAY THERE WAS AN OLD MUSLIM QUARTER. UNQUOTE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, SHAHI SAID HE CONSIDERED  
PARA D MOST IMPORTANT PART OF DOCUMENT. HE SAID THE  
GENERAL PITCH OF ARAFAT WAS THAT THE PLO DIDN'T HAVE MAY  
CARDS LEFT TO PLAY AND FELT THEY MUST RECEIVED SUBSTANTIAL  
QUID PRO QUO FOR RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL.

4. SHAHI SAID THAT ARAFAT HAD ASKED BHUTTO TO INTERCEDE  
WITH THE US BUT BHUTTO FELT INFORMING US OF ABOVE  
WAS AS FAR AS HE SHOULD GO.  
BYROADE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PALESTINIANS  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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